



Community Connect Awards – Mississippi

2008 Grant Awards:

Nexus Systems, Inc.

Mayersville, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$615,166

Contact: Mark Stevenson, (318) 340-0750

County: Issaquena; 2nd Congressional District

Through Rural Development funds, Nexus Systems, Inc. will be providing broadband services to Mayersville, Mississippi. Eight community organizations will benefit with two free years of broadband service including the Mayersville Community Center, which will provide new jobs to the local community through Rural Development funding.

2007 Grant Awards:

Community Development Leagues of America, Inc.

French Camp, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$761,000

Contact: Buck Flinn, (601) 954-6177

County: Choctaw

Rural Development funds will be used to build a wireless system in French Camp, Mississippi. The French Camp Town Hall will be renovated to provide 10 high speed internet connections using grant funds. The Volunteer Fire Department, the police department, and two schools will receive free high-speed Internet access as a result of this grant.

2006 Grant Awards:

Fail, Inc.

Bassfield, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$176,800

Contact: Rick Bennett, 601-944-4817

County: Jefferson Davis

Rural Development funds will be used to construct an unlicensed wireless broadband system. This small rural Mississippi community of Bassfield has a Fire/Civil Defense Department, Police Department, Water Department, Town Hall, and a Public School, of which all will benefit from having broadband service. Surveys were passed out through Bassfield, and 86 percent of the households were interested in obtaining such service.



ISP Associates, Inc. DBA Dixie Net Fiber

Dumas, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$295,031

Contact: Chris Marsalis, 662-993-2144

County: Tippah

Rural Development funds will be used to provide the local Wireless company the means to offer broadband service to Dumas, Mississippi. Residents can enjoy free access to the Internet at their local library. The volunteer fire department will benefit from having their first connection to the Internet.

2005 Grant Awards:

Town of Schlater, Mississippi

Schlater, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$343,638

Contact: Jason Colquett, 662-658-4868

County: Leflore

With this grant funding, the Town of Schlater will create a community-owned wireless broadband network which will create economic opportunities in this west-central Mississippi community. This system will offer many resident first time access to the internet and all of its educational and health resources. Video services will be added in the second year of full operation. The primary goal is to allow all 388 residents to participate in the new economy of the 21st Century in a manner that is socially responsible and economically advantageous for the community.

Village of Glendora

Glendora, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$325,405

Contact: Johnny Thomas, 601-940-2599

County: Tallahatchie

This fixed wireless technology project will bring broadband connectivity to the community of Glendora, a small northwestern Mississippi Delta village of 285 people. This community suffers from high poverty and unemployment. The project will connect the public library, health clinic, police department, and volunteer fire department. A cotton gin building owned by the city will be used to set up a community center, which will be used to offer a variety of educational and training services to residents. Residents will benefit from better educational and economic opportunities by improved access to information, prescription medicines, job search and GED college correspondence courses. Businesses will benefit from fast and reliable access to information, which can increase their productivity.



2004 Grant Awards:

Town of Benoit

Benoit, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$370,508

Contact: Bert Nokes, 662-742-3751

County: Bolivar

The project will bring a wireless broadband system to the Mississippi Delta agricultural community of Benoit which has a population of 611. In a community faced with high poverty, unemployment, and outmigration, broadband will expand the economic and educational resources available to local residents. The project will utilize the city's already existing water tower as the location for base station antennas. The broadband control center will be located in the municipal offices in downtown Benoit and the town will deploy residential and commercial antenna units at the various locations as needed by subscribers. The project will connect the Ray Brooks School (K-12), the Benoit Public Library, as well as the police and fire departments. The community center will be established on the school campus and offer all community residents broadband access, including continuing adult education, such as professional certifications and GED classes via Mississippi Virtual GED.

2003 Grant Awards:

Break Away Technologies

Friars Point, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$892,023

Contact: Mr. Joseph Loeb, 323-773-7677

County: Coahoma

Friars Point, a small, rural, Mississippi community has banded together to develop this project. Participants include the Friars Point City Government (including fire and police departments, Coahoma Community College, Friars Point Elementary School, local businesses and churches. Each participant will benefit from the high-speed broadband communications capability as well as contributing to the community. Better education opportunities, improved communication between essential public safety units, as well as new business opportunities will all be an end result. Improved health care will come from the reopening of the Aaron Henry Health Clinic which had closed its doors in Friars Point due to lack of personnel. The Clinic will be equipped with state of the art video conferencing systems networking it to physicians and health care professionals in nearby Clarksdale.



2002 Grant Awards:

Georgetown Telephone Company, Inc.

Georgetown, Mississippi

Grant Amount: \$219,000

CONTACT: Mr. Joseph A. Miller III, 601-858-2211

County: Copiah

Georgetown Telephone Co., Inc. (GTC) is a rural local exchange carrier operating in and around Georgetown, Mississippi, located in Copiah County. GTC was established in 1960 and is currently engaged in the business of providing local dial-tone and related voice services. GTC will provide free broadband access to the schools, Robert Windom Library, Georgetown Fire Department, Town Hall and the Georgetown Community Center for two years as well as providing high-speed availability to the residences and businesses within the community. The community center, which is now located in a small area within the library, will be expanded to its own location, in a building currently owned by the town. These remodeling efforts are incorporated into the grant request. This aspect will provide more jobs to Georgetown because the new community center will be staffed by residents of Georgetown. This grant will also provide for training to residents regarding how to use computers and high speed broadband. Approximately 344 residents will benefit from this grant.

Town of Arcola

Arcola, MS

Grant Amount: \$350,956

Contact: Clifton Harris, (662) 827-2063

County: Washington

The Town of Arcola will use RUS grant funds for the proposed Arcola Broadband Communications project, which will bring broadband connectivity to the small Mississippi River Delta community of Arcola. Arcola is a small town that is socially and geographically isolated from the mainstream. The rate of unemployment is more than twice the state average, and the success of local businesses is limited by the small population in the immediate area. Arcola is a remnant of what was once a thriving town of 7,000 people. The Town of Arcola's current population is 563. There is no public transportation in the community and many local residents lack dependable personal transportation. These factors add to the impact of the lack of broadband transmission service and the lack of local computer access points. This project strives to provide the same quality and range of services that are available in larger communities. It will allow them to expand the economic and educational resources available to local residents.